



## Chief Adam Wright Beaver Dam Police Department

Chief Adam Wright has been in law enforcement for more than 10 years and is a graduate of Ohio County High School, Superior K-9 Academy and the Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 303. He began his law enforcement career with the McLean County Police Department as a patrolman before moving to the Beaver Dam Police Department in 2001. He also was a deputy sheriff in McLean County for one year, served the Ohio County Sheriff's Office for seven years and was appointed police chief for the city of Beaver Dam in May 2009. He and his wife, Amanda Perkins, have been married for 10 years.

### HOW DID YOUR BACKGROUND HELP PREPARE YOU TO BE CHIEF OF BEAVER DAM?

Having worked in different areas in law enforcement, I understand not only the operations but also what it takes to run each one with the proper budget and equipment to keep the officers safe. I feel as a chief, having worked in the K-9 unit, motorcycle patrol and Emergency Response Team, I can better understand what it takes to run a good department.

### WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF BEING CHIEF?

My most rewarding part is bringing the department up to professional standards. Also, I am proud of having the first take-home fleet in the department's history, finishing the department's website and starting a Facebook account to keep the citizens of Beaver Dam up to speed with the department.

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### HOW DO YOU PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY FROM IDENTITY THEFT? IS IT A PROBLEM?

Finishing the website was one of the things I wanted to do to bring this growing problem to the attention of our citizens. In the past two years, I have seen an increase in identity-theft cases and the importance of starting the Kid's Zone and Teen Zone pages on our website. This was an idea that I shared with our Web page designer to create a place where kids and teens could go to get information they need to stay safe not only on the Internet but in the general public as well.

### WHAT NEW PROGRAM DO YOU HAVE IN PLACE AND HOW HAS IT HELPED YOUR OFFICE?

In the past two years, I've seen requests grow for extra patrol and calls in the same general area.

We started with the Beat the Street Program, where officers park their cars for two hours. One hour the officer walks around areas where calls for extra patrols are made and calls for services are high.

This gives officers the opportunity to talk with citizens in the area to see what our department can do to better serve the citizens in the officers' area. The other hour is used to do case follow-ups and talk with the victims about their cases and to let them know where the department is with their case. This program has allowed our department to save on the cost of fuel and to help build the department's relationship with our community.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW PROJECTS?

I have a project in the works that will also involve the Ohio County Sheriff's Office and the Hartford Police Department. It's a program that allows juveniles from low-income families and juveniles who have been in trouble with law enforcement the chance to interact with officers. The program, "Hooked On Fun, Not On Drugs," will give these kids the opportunity to spend some time with our officers to help create a positive relationship, so that in the future, hopefully, the decisions they make will be positive ones. 🍌

